

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00380 101901Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1494

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, HA, TW

SUBJECT: PINGPONG DIPLOMACY FLAP

1. AMCIT OPERATOR OF ROYAL HAITIAN HOTEL IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, CLAIMS THAT HIS FATHER, MICHAEL J. MCLANEY OF MIAMI, FLA., AND FRITZ JEAN-BAPTISTE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HAITI'S NATIONAL OFFICE OF TOURISM, HAVE ARRANGED TO HOLD WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE TABLE TENNIS "WORLD FINALS" AT HIS HOTEL IN LATE MARCH, POSSIBLY MARCH 18. YOUNG MCLANEY CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW ANY OF THE DETAILS YET, BUT SAID HIS FATHER MENTIONED THAT A COMMUNIST CHINESE TEAM PROBABLY WOULD BE ONE OF THE COMPETING FINALISTS.

2. LOCAL AMCIT STRINGER FOR US WIRE SERVICES, WHO HOPES TO SHARE IN THE US RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF THE EVENT, CLAIMS THAT JEAN-BAPTISTE WAS VIRTUALLY STRUCK DUMB UPON LEARNING OF THE PROBABLY PRC PARTICIPATION, SINCE THE GOH HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE ROC, WHICH MAINTAINS AN EMBASSY HERE. THE GOH ITSELF HAS SHOWN NO INCLINATION WHATSOEVER TO INITIATE PING-PONG DIPLOMACY, ABHORRING COMMUNISM AND ALL ITS WORKS, AND IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE PALACE REACT TO JEAN-BAPTISTE'S DUBIOUS PROMOTIONAL TRIUMPH.

3. ACTION REQUESTED - WE WILL TRY TO LEARN MORE DETAILS, BUT MEANWHILE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING CURRENT STATUS OF
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PAGE 02 PORT A 00380 101901Z

WORLD TABLE TENNIS COMPETITION, AND WHETHER IT IS
PLAUSIBLE THAT ANY TABLE TENNIS ORGANIZATION THAT THE PRC

PARTICIPATION WULD BE SCHEDULING FINALS FOR NEXT MARCH.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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